



IZIBEL DOBBS | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest Health Services hosted a free drive thru COVID-19 testing event Jan. 8 at the Maryville National Guard Armory. There were 76 active coronavirus cases in Nodaway County at the time of publication.

## No spring break, prep week added

**MADELINE MAPES**  
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

Northwest announced Dec. 18 via a Northwest News email and on social media that it amended the spring 2021 academic calendar, eliminating spring break, ending in-person classes on April 23 and adding a preparation week before finals start May 3. The move caused the University to receive some negative feedback from professors and students alike.

Students and parents have expressed their thoughts on the sudden change to the spring semester's layout, which wasn't announced until after last semester ended. Some have shown support while others have had to pay a literal price when they had to suddenly cancel any planned trips for spring break.

Provost Jamie Hooyman said the University waited as long as reasonably possible to make any decisions regarding the spring semester.

The whole point in waiting, she explained, was to gather as much information about what the spring might look like in regards to COVID-19.

"This has been an extraordinary year with the global pandemic," Hooyman said. "Normally you don't look at the academic calendar during the academic year."

Hooyman said the University decided to wait on making any decisions knowing with about a year's worth of experience in a pandemic that things are constantly changing. Some good; others aren't.

When COVID-19 cases continued throughout the fall semester, she said the University was forced to make a decision and it chose to change the spring semester schedule right before winter break.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said that the cancellation of spring break was disappointing, but the right thing to do.

"We know that students are mobile and travel and the best guidance from the CDC and the state department of health is that COVID will not be under control in early to mid March," Baker said.

He also said the University has been gathering as much up-to-date information as they can and making decisions from there, helping to explain why the announcement was made so late in the fall semester.

In a comment on Facebook, a parent of a freshmen student expressed their frustration, but also said they understood why the University changed the spring calendar. "Flights were booked and reservations were made," said Marian Rosburg Govreau. "We were so bummed when spring break was canceled."

Junior Abby Boren commented on the University's first tweet about the change in the spring schedule saying that they were taking away the "one breath" students get in one of the hardest school years due to the problems caused by the pandemic.

"Who in the world thought this was a good idea?" Boren said in her comment.

Despite some people's frustrations with the change, some have been supportive and understanding of the University's decision.

Freshman Morgan Moe said that she thought the University made a good decision when they canceled spring break.

"I feel like if they minimize travel it's going to end up being safer in the long run," Moe said.

Moe said she did not have any big plans for spring break other than going home and visiting some friends.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](https://www.nwmissourianews.com)

# Vaccine distribution still in early stages

*Cases remain low as students fill town for spring semester*

**MADELINE MAPES**  
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

The first of many coronavirus vaccines have been administered to Phase 1a qualifiers of the Missouri COVID-19 vaccine availability plan in Nodaway County.

Nodaway County Health Department Administrator Tom Patterson delved into what the vaccine means for Nodaway County and the University.

Patterson said as of Jan. 8, the NCHD had administered 100 vaccines to patient-facing healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents and staff. In addition, as of Jan. 5, 215 caregivers at Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville have received the vaccine, according to the hospital's Community Relations Manager Rita Miller. More vaccinations are scheduled for this week including some second doses.

Although the administration of COVID-19 vaccines is a glimmer of light at the seemingly never ending tunnel that is the pandemic, Patterson said the vaccine's work will most likely not reflect in the number of cases until a few weeks after people start receiving their second dose.

According to the Nodaway County COVID-19 Data dashboard, as of Jan. 12, the seven-day rolling average is seven cases, which is part of a small decrease in cases since Jan. 6, with 17 cases. As of Jan. 12, there are 76 cases in Nodaway County. Patterson said this small decrease does not reflect any changes made by the administration of the vaccine to Phase 1a of the first tier.

"We are asking people to be patient and keep an eye

on or listen to local news," Patterson said.

He suggested keeping up with local news outlets for vaccine availability and noted that the tier system for administering vaccines is controlled by the state and federal governments.

According to a Springfield News-Leader article, most of the general public will not begin to receive the first does of coronavirus vaccines for at least a few months. The article stated that the state's health director, Dr. Randall Williams said most people should hopefully be able to be vaccinated by July of this year.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said 14 Northwest employees, including Wellness Services workers and athletic trainers, have been vaccinated. Later this week Northwest is expecting to receive further plans from the state regarding the distribution of vaccines to help the University begin to structure its own plans to vaccinate staff and students.

"We're beginning to plan, but there are a lot of unknowns right now," Baker said.

Baker noted that Wellness Services is still waiting to hear from the state if they can be an administrator of vaccines.

He said the University has begun discussions on who the first people to receive vaccines would be if Wellness Services is approved to administer them.

Baker explained that this new plan, which the University hopes to receive this week, will include guidelines that are different from the current ones the state has laid out for whom to administer the vaccine to first.

SEE COVID-19 | A4

## City Council prepares for vote on masks

**KENDRICK CALFEE**  
News Editor | @calfee\_kc

Maryville's City Council met Jan. 11 for the first time since mid December, with familiar faces in the same community center room from four weeks ago. A sign posted outside the room read "Occupancy 28." Five seats were empty.

Those five seats shared something in common with the expressions of city council members when citizens stood up and talked over one another — a reflection of emptiness brought on by redundancy — and the same remarks from the past year echoed.

"Why don't you leave it up to the individual to make the choice?" one citizen said, referring to a local face covering ordinance.

"What gives you the authority to make these decisions?" another said.

The meeting began the same as previous ones since April 2020, with a COVID-19 update. The Council, accompanied by City Manager Greg McDanel, talked



KENDRICK CALFEE | NW MISSOURIAN

Councilwoman Rachael Martin and councilman Tye Parsons listen to McDanel's water system update Jan. 11 at the Maryville community center.

about the upcoming face covering ordinance, which is set to expire Jan. 31. As of Jan. 10, Nodaway County remains in a Category 1 — Extreme Risk for COVID-19, a determination made by the state.

An adamant crowd listened to this week's report — that the seven-day positivity rate sits at 14.6%

and the seven-day case rate per 100,000 is 249. To move down in categories, the county would have to reach two consecutive weeks of meeting lower criteria.

Numbers became a topic that molded into a dominating message from those in attendance.

"Why would you use--"

"When you talk, I really need you to stand up, tell me your name ... and your address, because I have to keep this on record, OK?" City Clerk Stacy Wood said.

"Sorry, OK so we got Tim Jackson... I don't understand why we use numbers of Nodaway County to make us wear masks in Maryville, Missouri," Jackson said.

After some back-and-forth, McDanel and Councilman Matt Johnson said local resources don't allow for city-specific data, and since county data provided by the health department is available, it is what the council, and local health officials use for decision making.

For these reasons and more, Councilman Tye Parsons requested input from Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville and the Nodaway County Health Department for the next regular City Council meeting, where it will make a decision on whether to extend the face covering ordinance.

SEE COUNCIL | A4

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# Political groups react to Capitol riots

WESLEY MILLER  
News Reporter | @wesleymiller360

All eyes were on the nation’s Capitol Jan 6., for more than one reason. As members of Congress met to certify the Electoral College votes and officially declare President-elect Joe Biden the next president of the United States, a few Republican lawmakers objected to the results of the Electoral College. Not long after this, riots began outside the Capitol Building. The rioters eventually found their way inside, forcing officials to evacuate, creating headlines on every major news outlet.

Over 1,100 miles away, these events had effects in Maryville, and generated reactions from the people watching.

At Northwest, the College Democrats and College Republicans both had plenty to say about what happened.

Jasper Logan, president of College Republicans, said when he first heard about the riots he didn’t believe it.

“My phone was dead so I couldn’t check the news myself. When I finally caught up a few hours later, I was shocked but understood and should have seen it coming,” Logan said in an email to the Missourian.

Logan said that when so many people believed their votes didn’t count, and the only foreseeable way to change that fell short, it was easy for him to see why the rioters felt the way they did.

Although he has different reasons as to why, like Logan, assistant professor of political science Luke Campbell said he was also completely shocked.

“First, the power of the presidency is awesome in many ways,” Campbell said in an email to the Missourian. “One of the ways this manifests is the ability to inspire and incite. Anyone paying attention to the president’s outrageous rhetoric post-election would clearly be able to connect the dots from inspiration to action, not to mention his speech to supporters directly before this insurrection.”

Campbell also said it was widely known and easily discoverable that something was being planned by Trump supporters and agitators in the days and weeks leading up to it.

Tyler Bears, president of College Democrats, said he was in disbelief when he first heard about the riot at Capitol Hill.

“I was actually on a Zoom call with the College Democrats of Missouri State Federation when the rioters first got in and my thoughts were, as I’m sure many other people’s were, ‘Oh my God, is this really happening?’” Bears said in an email to the Missourian.

Similar to Bears, Andrew Sorelli, a member of College Democrats, was watching C-SPAN all day, preparing himself for a long day of bureaucratic talk, when suddenly the focus turned to the riots.

Like many others that day, Sorelli was shocked upon seeing what was happening at the Capitol.



MICHAEL NIGRO | AP PHOTO

On Jan. 6 Pro-Trump supporters and far-right forces flooded Washington, D.C., to protest Donald Trump’s election loss. Hundreds battled Capitol Police and breached the U.S. Capitol Building.

“I immediately was freaking out, calling friends and relatives that were in D.C. to make sure they were okay,” Sorelli said in an email to the Missourian. “I then spent the rest of the day glued to the screen waiting for the insurrection to be put down.”

Prior to the riots, there were already people outside the Capitol Building, awaiting the results of the certification of the Electoral College votes.

Logan said that too many people were led to believe everything was riding on the events of that day

— that many in that group felt on that day, everything would shift in their favor.

Despite the rioters being primarily Trump supporters, multiple Republican leaders and followers across the nation condemned these actions.

“I was disappointed, because in addition to the tragic loss of life of both participants and Capitol police caused by their actions, what they did was shortsighted, unnecessarily dangerous and will do more damage to the Republican Party than any good they could have hoped to

accomplish in what they did,” Logan said in an email.

The College Republicans released a statement, condemning the actions of the rioters at the nation’s Capitol.

The release stated that as they condemned any riots that took place last summer, they also condemned this riot, and that anyone who participated were hypocrites and are no better than the ones who rioted then.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](https://www.missourianews.com)

## University raffles off 30 credit hours to incoming freshman

SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Reporter | @sidney\_lowry

This past December, Northwest Admissions offered a free tuition giveaway for the 2021-22 academic year for incoming undergraduate freshmen and first-time transfer students.

Any student who applied for admission by Dec. 11 and met the guidelines for the giveaway was automatically entered to win up to 30 free credit hours worth of tuition. Executive Director of Student Recruitment Jeremy Waldeier explained this award was made to encourage students to apply for admission earlier.

“Gaining admission early helps reduce the risk of students missing key deadline dates, which are critical when navigating the college selection process,” Waldeier said.

Prospective students who applied have to meet the guidelines and the multiple rules set by the Northwest recruitment team. A few of these rules are that the student must live on campus, not be a University employee and not be an online student.

All students who are eligible have the same chance of winning since they are chosen at random. On Dec. 11 Josh Higgins was chosen as the winner of the 2021-22 giveaway.

The possibility of this giveaway being renewed for the 2022-23 academic year is up to what the admissions recruitment team decides to do to help boost enrollment.

“This is a yearly decision,” Waldeier said. “We discuss our recruitment strategies and decide whether to continue the promotion for upcoming academic years.”

Other than this giveaway through admissions, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid offers other opportunities. The standard scholarship application is available to all Northwest students and is another way for students to get financial assistance.

Financial aid counselor Rachel Roush said filling out this one application is an easy way for students to apply for Northwest departmental and foundational scholarships. When filling out the application, the information is immediately taken and applied for all scholarships a given student meets the requirements of.

“Some of the scholarships look for groups and activities that you’re in, awards or something else that you’ve completed,” Roush said.

There are 488 scholarships that are found on the application through Catpaws. Based on the criteria set for each individual award, students can

apply for scholarships specific to their major or year in school.

“Each department looks for something different,” Roush said. “A lot of times they look for merit, where you’re from and your grade level.”

Though it is one standard application, it needs to be filled out every year for students to be eligible to receive new awards. Director of Financial Assistance Charles Mayfield said that there are 15 to 30 new scholarships added depending on the year and with every year the questions could change on the application.

“Since the application is dynamic and includes skip logic, a student could be asked different questions each year depending on which scholarships they appear to qualify for across different years,” Mayfield said.

Applications are due Feb. 1 to be eligible for any awards for the 2021-22 academic year. This is the only application for many departmental and foundational scholarships, so students are encouraged to apply to make sure they will be considered for this award.

“There aren’t a ton of people applying,” Roush said. “It’s just Northwest students and not every student applies. You may have more of a chance than those national scholarships everyone is applying to.”

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# Summer 2021 study abroad trips canceled

**SIDNEY LOWRY**  
News Reporter I @sidney\_lowry

After the announcement of spring study abroad trips being called off, the University contemplated the decision on summer 2021 trips over winter break. A week before spring classes began, those trips were also canceled.

Though all travel has been changing since the summer of 2020, Director of the International Involvement Center Philip Hull said he believes that there is a chance for programs in fall 2021.

“We have someone from our faculty who is planning on running her program to the United Arab Emirates that was canceled from this winter,” Hull said. “There is a lot of forward thinking and engaging with a lot of our overseas partners.”

For studying abroad, decision-makers closely watch the U.S. Department of State recommendations and travel advisories, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention travel notices.

The decision to cancel came from the overall unpredictability for the way international travel is going to look and that many other provid-

ers, such as International Student Exchange Program, Academic Programs International and International Studies Abroad, and partner schools have canceled their programs for the spring and summer.

“I think everybody is in the same boat with recognizing that there are too many uncertainties,” Hull said. “We extended the application and deposit deadlines for the faculty programs so that we could make a timely decision with keeping the best interest of the students financially.”

Now that there is a vaccine for COVID-19, there was question as to whether students studying abroad would have to receive it. As of right now it is too early to say.

Though the news of approved vaccines came to light around the time of deciding if study abroad trips would continue, it wasn’t a factor in their decision to deny the trips for summer 2021.

“It could have been significant and it could change the equation, but likewise we’re still at a point where there are too many unknowns,” Hull said. “I think things are moving in a positive direction; we just can’t say with any certain-



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN  
**Northwest’s International Involvement Center sits empty after recent announcement of canceled trips for students in the program. Northwest offers students more than 850 study abroad programs in 60 countries.**

ty that everything is going full-steam ahead.”

On Dec. 15, one-page proposals were submitted to the International Involvement Center from faculty who are interested in winter break trips in 2021 and 2022. Some of those proposals came from faculty who had their trips from the past year canceled.

“They were planning to go and it was out of their control that it was cancelled, so we gave them the opportunity to offer that to students again,” Hull said.

Hull explained that there are virtual options for students to continue to study abroad during the pandemic. There are online internships and classes that students take through partner universities, such as Perrotis College for Agriculture and Food Science in Greece, Toyo University in Japan and University de Alcalá in Spain.

Taking classes through the partner universities would be nearly the same as taking an online class through Northwest during the summer.

The involvement center has

been looking forward to future programs rather than virtual opportunities to offer students the full experience of being an international student.

“I think there is a general spirit of understanding and cooperation,” Hull said. “There is also a general feeling of optimism and hope. We were hopeful that there would be a different story for summer 2021, but it’s not like everything is shutting down and we will never have study abroad ever again.”

# Maryville resumes full-time in-person learning

**KENDRICK CALFEE**  
News Editor I @calfee\_kc

The fall quarters of hybrid schooling and a “new normal” didn’t sit well with students of Maryville High School anymore than college students enduring the same reality.

Students at MHS are eager to be back, and even with a foggy spring ahead, staff at the high school are hopeful to build upon last semester’s success.

Now back to five days of in-person school a week with social distancing and face coverings required, Principal Thom Alvarez said he doesn’t want to focus on the ‘what could be,’ but rather remain content with what is possible now.

“I’m hoping we can continue to add more things back that add to the high school experience, but of course our first and foremost priority is keeping all the kids safe,” Alvarez said.

Playing a tough hand in a pandemic world, students at MHS were successful in several avenues de-

spite the hybrid model of learning in the fall.

MHS enjoyed one of its most successful falls ever in regards to athletics, with a volleyball state championship, the football team playing in the state championship, the cross country team finishing third in state and several other successes.

Building on that, trends showed that grades remained steady at MHS with no major dips. This holds true nationwide as well, with tangible learning gains actually reported by high schools throughout the pandemic.

Alvarez commended students, teachers and other colleagues for the work to make learning as smooth and accessible as possible in the fall.

“The kids and teachers battled really hard first semester to maintain what they are used to doing, and if anything, I think this next semester will be even more successful,” Alvarez said.

With the option of in-person school this semester, the number of people choosing to do online

only schooling has significantly decreased. Most chose to be in classrooms for five days a week, returning an energy back into the hallways that were previously suppressed by the circumstances.

“I feel like a lot of people who tried (online schooling) first semester felt it was best for them to be in person,” Alvarez said, then paused before continuing, as if thinking back to the less-full hallways that haunted thousands of educators in the fall.

“Our push is always that we want kids in the seats and working with our teachers daily,” Alvarez said.

This district-wide approach, combined with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updating its guidelines on quarantining, helped fuel the Maryville Board of Education’s decision to return to a five-day school week.

Students deemed close contacts can remain in school as long as they wear masks and social distance. This provision is much like a declaration that came out of the Nod-

away County Commission in September 2020, which allows close-contact teachers to remain teaching in person.

Like students, those teachers must meet three criteria: wear a face covering on campus, be symptom free and follow social distancing guidelines.

An area that sees a particular challenge with certain mitigation strategies is high school activities. And while sports are continuing at the high school level with guidelines from individual conferences in the Missouri State High School Athletics Association, some activities are provided with less guidance.

Alyssa Pace, an MHS junior plays the flute for the Spoofhound Marching Band. Much like the Bearcat Marching Band, masks with small holes cut in them were worn when playing, and social distancing was implemented.

Also like the BMB, challenges arose that had to be adapted to, and in-person performances became limited.

“It’s tough. We can’t have real

performances; they have to be recorded,” Pace said.

Pace was one of the majority of students who returned to five days a week in person when the option arose. The most challenging part of the fall for her was keeping up with multiple assignments in every class each day with an online platform.

Anna Miller, an MHS senior also returned to a full week of classes, participates in Spectrum, the MHS show choir.

She said the transition was tough, going from a full week to three days and a hybrid model in the fall. But after a while she became used to having five days worth of learning in two days.

“I am looking forward to more face-to-face learning because that is how I learn best,” Miller said. “Hopefully now we can watch some of the upcoming sports games and that students will get to go to more school events.”

“I don’t know; that probably won’t happen, but I’m hoping,” Miller said.

## Worship in Maryville

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# CRIME LOG

for the week of Jan. 14

## Maryville Department of Public Safety

**Dec. 31**  
A summons was issued to **Payton A. Schieffer**, 20, for Minor in Possession on the 300 Block of North Mulberry Street.

**Jan. 1**  
A summons was issued to **Jordan A. Edwards**, 23, of Stanberry, Missouri for Driving While Intoxicating, and failure to use headlights after dark on the 1700 Block of East 1st Street.

**Jan. 5**  
A summons was issued to **Randall K. Johnson** II, 19, for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and following another vehicle too close on the 600 Block of East 1st Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for harassment on the 800 Block of North Fillmore Street.

**Jan. 7**  
A summons was issued to **Mikhail M. Smith**, 23, of Clearmont, Missouri for not possessing a valid driver's license.

**Jan. 8**  
There is an ongoing investigation for harassment on the 600 Block of North Main Street.

There was an accident on the 1200 Block of South Main Street between **Jimmy L. Davis**, 58, of Skidmore, Missouri, and **Carolyn R. Hall**, 43, of Mound City, Missouri. A citation was issued to Davis for Careless and Imprudent Driving.

**Jan. 9**  
There was an accident on the 200 Block of North Main Street between **Mary T. Urbanek**, 21, of Roland, Iowa, and **Cameron T. Jenkins**, 16. A citation was issued to Urbanek for Careless and Imprudent Driving.

**Jan. 10**  
A summons was issued to **Rachel C.S. Wignall**, 20, of Creston, Iowa for a Minor in Possession on the 200 Block of North Market Street.

A summons was issued to **Christopher J. Clewell**, 23, of Dubuque, Iowa for Driving While Intoxicating and failure to maintain right half of the road on the 1500 Block of North Main Street.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Two ice fishers begin to drill into the ice and start their long day of fishing at Mozingo Lake Jan. 9. The city of Maryville relies on Mozingo as its main water source and in the winter the algae dies off and leaves a funky taste and smell to the water.

# Water issues continue at Mozingo

HAILEY MACH  
News Reporter | @haileymach98

Over the past three years, citizen concerns of the Maryville water supply have risen. In 2017, algae blooms in Mozingo Lake were found to cause a foul taste and odor in the water supply.

During the summer, the algae blooms affect the taste, but even when the cold weather hits and the algae blooms die down, the water remains affected. After the algae begins to die off, it leaves something behind called geosmin.

For years now, geosmin has played a huge role in the unpleasant taste and smell of the Maryville water supply. Approximately \$860,000 has been spent on water improvements since February 2017, including sampling, treatments, studies, chemicals and shoreline stabilization.

In December 2020, 2,200 nanograms per liter of raw water geosmin was detected. This month, the raw water geosmin had decreased drastically to 300 nanograms per liter. Although these numbers are large, humans are only able to detect 15 nanograms per liter.

“What geosmin essentially is, is

after the algae dies, it leaves a by-product, and that by product is the geosmin,” Assistant City Manager Ryan Heiland said. “So, it’s really just kind of the remnants of the blue-green algal bloom that happened, and then it just naturally dissipates into the water as well.”

When the winter months arrive and the lake freezes over, the decomposition of algae leaves behind more geosmin than it typically would during the summer.

“I would say in the past it kind of does tend to seem we are having more winter algae blooms than during the summer, or any time other,” said Heiland. “But again, those patterns are still kind of shifting out in terms of how the lake is doing.”

Some factors that may contribute to the algae growth include nutrient levels, the age of the lake, nitrogen and phosphorus runoff and soil erosion and stabilization.

Heiland noted that the city has done extensive work to ensure the water quality continues to improve. The most effective water treatment discovered so far has been the powder activated carbon. This process eliminates anywhere from 80-90% of geosmin from treated water.

“Unfortunately, the technology that we have at the water treatment plant, we can’t get the remaining 10-20% out, and so that’s where we’re still having the taste and odor issues,” Heiland said. “But the powder activated carbon has done a really good job to reduce most of it.”

A long-term fix to the water taste and odor issues would be to spend \$15-30 million on a new drinking water treatment plant. The original plant was constructed in 1959 and is beyond its useful life. Since then, there have been only two upgrades in the treatment plant, the last one being in 2000.

The assistant city manager noted that, although there may be an unpleasant taste and odor to the town’s water supply, the safety of drinking water is nothing to be concerned about.

The water is sampled and sent into the Department of Natural Resources each week, where it is reviewed and analyzed to ensure the city’s water meets all the health and safety requirements.

During the City Council meeting Jan. 11, Maryville City Manager Greg McDanel also expressed con-

cerns on the topic. In the Council’s last meeting, the city announced it had approved an application for an algacide from Hawkins Inc. to help deplete the algal blooms, ultimately leading to better tasting water. However, the two treatments of algacide were received a week behind the scheduled delivery.

“After much effort by staff, we received that chemical on Dec. 30,” McDanel said. “Unfortunately, that was late enough where the ice cap has occurred at Mozingo.”

The city is working with HDR Engineering, Inc. and the Missouri DNR to get underneath the ice cap to efficiently apply the algae treatment.

“A new water treatment plant is the only effective way to 99% address the geosmin and algae issue that we have,” McDanel said.

The City Council plans to present a Water Treatment Alternative Analysis that includes a list of short-term and long-term recommendations for taste and odor issues as well as the water treatment process. The analysis will be delivered to the DNR and the public for further progress on this situation during their next meeting on Jan. 25.

# COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM A1

He said as of this moment, no changes or decisions have been made affecting trips through the University because it is unknown when or even if students will be vaccinated and if it will be safe to travel.

Dr. Jasinski sent out an email to students on Jan. 12 announcing that the University will inform the campus when they know more about their arrival.

Patterson noted that there has been a hold on ordering new vaccines because of a Long-term Care Pharmacy Partnership between several pharmacies across the nation and nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

“The federal government contracted with some nation-wide pharmacies to provide vaccines to long-term care facilities,” Patterson said.

According to the CDC the program began at the national level Dec. 21, 2020, with the diversion of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines and then

the diversion of Moderna vaccines, which started Dec. 28, 2020. Patterson said this program would last at least two to three weeks.

The CDC’s website also stated that local program start dates varied depending on jurisdiction.

Patterson said he hopes that by the end of the month, the NCHD can order more of the Moderna vaccines to continue vaccinations.

Patterson explained that there are 10 doses in every vial of the vaccine, and once that vial has been opened, vaccine administrators have 6 hours to use all 10 doses or they begin to go to waste.

He also said that in order to see the effects of mass administration of the vaccine, it would not require 100% participation.

“All we really need is enough people to get it knocked down,” Patterson said. “I think 20% is going to have an impact.”

He noted that the more people who choose to get the vaccine is always better, but he knows that not everyone may agree to getting the coronavirus vaccine.



IZIBEL DOBBS | NW MISSOURIAN  
Maryville provided free drive-thru COVID-19 testing at the Community Center in the Missouri National Guard Armory bay. Tests were available to any Missouri resident and they didn’t have to be showing symptoms to be eligible.

# COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM A1

Disgruntled comments and genuine concerns mixed like oil and water throughout the hour-long meeting. COVID-19 was the longest discussed, but least detail-heavy issue on the Jan. 11 agenda. An extensive update on the water system and an overview of the South Main Improvement Project ensued shortly after.

The latest development with the ongoing water issues was the treatment of elevated geosmin.

The geosmin is in the raw water supply at Mozingo Lake. This bacteria creates a “musty, earthy smell and taste” per a presentation McDanel gave.

In that presentation, he said about 80-90% of the geosmin is being removed and the use of powder activated carbons is working to alleviate taste and odor issues by removing the compounds that produce them.

But the bacteria resulting in water aesthetic issues is less of a pressing issue than the water treatment facility as a whole. McDanel said the only fool-proof method of addressing taste and odor issues long-term is the multi-million dollar investment at the water treatment plant.

“Keep in mind that, even without the taste and odor issues, our plant was constructed in 1959, so it is beyond its usable life and either needs substantial existing investments or consideration of a new

plant,” McDanel said.

For now though, the city is focusing on an algicide application. But the city faced a couple roadblocks here as well — the delivery of the algicide was delayed and the current ice cover on Mozingo Lake prevents application of the 2,200 gallons of the chemical.

Some back-and-forth, but not as much as comments from the COVID-19 update, followed McDanel’s presentation on the water facility.

“If we would have been on the ball before (Mozingo Lake) froze, would that have helped with the geosmin?” Mike Coffelt said, being one of a few citizens who stated their name before speaking.

“I wish we would have got it done on the 23rd, and there may be some legal consequences, and that’s

something we’ve talked about,” McDanel said.

The delivery delay was the result of third party shipping miscommunicating and possible lawsuits could be imminent, McDanel said.

Even with a few tense moments between council members and citizens, processes of democracy shined through the local government Jan. 11 when its members said they aim to serve even those who are posting hostile comments on social media.

“The big thing is I’m glad they are coming. It’s an open meeting, an open discussion,” Mayor Ben Lipiec said. “Some people think it’s a conspiracy or we hide what we’re doing. I appreciate all of them coming and welcome anyone who wants to come.”

Councilwoman Rachael Martin and Lipiec said with recent citizen voices, heard primarily on social media, engagement at the meetings is important and encouraged, but they continue to trust the experts, the proven sciences, and what they feel is best for all Maryville citizens.

“Like Rachael (Martin) said, we are five different individuals with five different beliefs and five different thoughts on the issues,” Lipiec said. “We work together to come up with the best solution but the big thing is that we work for them — those who come here and share their opinions.”

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25, at which local healthcare representatives are expected to attend.



Water  
outrage  
is a dog  
whistle

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Columnist  
@andrewwegley



Things were different at the Maryville Community Center than they were a month ago, when the City Council last met in an at-capacity room and spent more than an hour readdressing the city’s water issue — a source of renewed public outcry.

There were fewer armed police officers on hand to provide security. There were fewer chairs this time, leaving space at the back of the second-floor meeting room for a standing room only crowd that never showed. And there were fewer uninformed residents in attendance this time around, who in December flooded the meeting space with rambling questions, pleading with the Council to address taste issues consuming Maryville’s drinking water.

It sounds like a noble effort: A group of citizens, organizing via a grassroots Facebook group, taking their grievances directly to the Council and demanding officials answer for their own inaction. What could be more democratic?

But what the minutes from the last three years of City Council meetings will tell you — and what some of the conservative Facebook group’s members aren’t capable of telling you themselves — is that the issue the group has latched onto as a talking point for the City Council’s inaction is a topic the Council has been actively addressing since 2017.

Maryville has spent \$860,000 trying to address the water’s taste and odor ailments since 2017. And The Maryville Forum has published more than a dozen stories examining the issue — all of which came before the Maryville and Nodaway County Resident Council Facebook page was created.

The latest City Council meeting proved something that was already apparent: Leaders in the group have weaponized the water issue as a dog whistle for conservatives fed up with the city’s mask mandate, using the platform to launch their own campaigns for City Council.

Among them, of course, were Tim Jackson and John McBride — frequent posters in the Facebook group who have announced bids to run for two open Council seats this April.

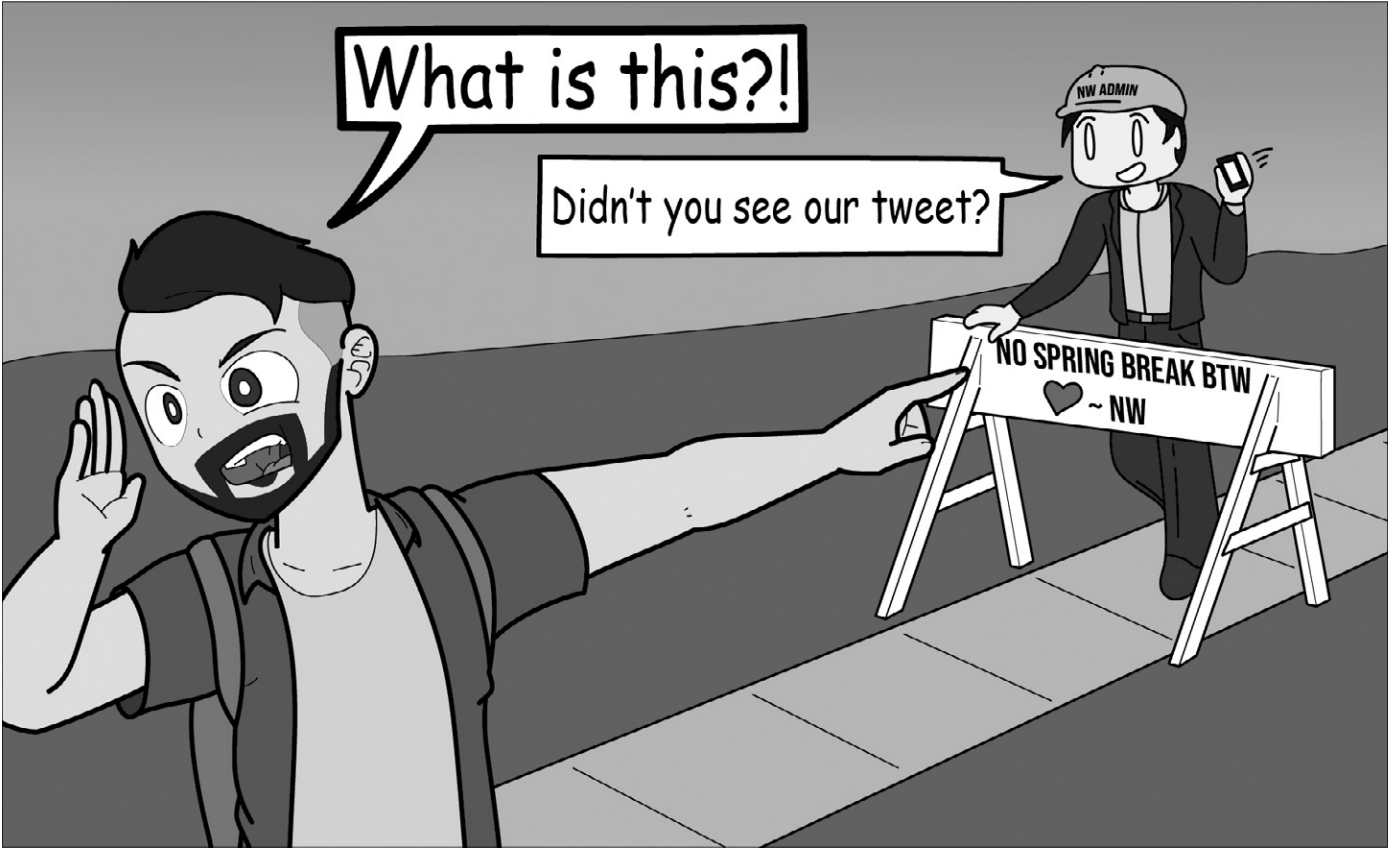
In an unnecessarily tense encounter with the Council — which didn’t vote and never intended to vote on extending the city’s mask ordinance, set to expire Jan. 31 — Jackson played his familiar, tired role of a dissenter for the sake of dissent, twice complaining about City Hall’s temporary closure due to COVID-19.

“It doesn’t make any sense to have the doors locked,” Jackson told Councilwoman Rachael Martin, referring to City Hall.

“Is there a service that you need that you have not been able to get during the closure?” Martin asked, the former mayor who barely finished her question before Jackson interrupted again.

“Absolutely not,” Jackson said. “But that’s not the point.”

There never was a point. Jackson was repeating the same monologue he has since July. And now McBride has joined in, along with 1,000 of their closest friends, reciting a synchronous, tired chorus of misinformation.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:  
**Break cancellation poorly  
communicated to students**

The fall semester of 2020 was perhaps the most difficult semester since World War II for colleges to plan for. No one was entirely sure if in-person classes were feasible, much less whether we could endure a whole semester of them. Northwest’s leadership ended up guiding the University to a mostly-successful first semester.

One would expect that given their recent experience of operating a university in a pandemic, leadership would be able to plan early and inform students of their plans well ahead of time.

Instead, Northwest officially canceled spring break for spring 2021 and sent out an email to notify students of this change after they had already registered for classes and finished the fall semester. The official Northwest Twitter account did make an official tweet Dec. 18 regarding the change but neglected to mention the actual cancellation in the tweet, rather they directed students to the University website.

The decision to cancel spring break and end the semester early is the correct one. The cancellation will, of course, limit the number of students who plan to go on trips that week which could help prevent spikes in COVID-19 cases at the end of the semester.

Detractors will argue that students

will decide to go on their planned trips regardless and that Northwest can’t stop them, which might be true, but if this decision prevents one person from going and getting the coronavirus and possibly spreading it to others then it’s the right call.

The question is, why was this decision announced so late and at a time when students wouldn’t be regularly checking email?

Provost Jamie Hooyma told The Missourian that University decision-makers wanted to gather as much information as possible before making their decision. Quite frankly, they should have known we would be operating in a COVID-19 stricken spring semester long before midway through December.

Cases of the virus and deaths related to COVID-19 were climbing towards the end of the fall semester all across the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There was no indication we would be out of the woods in terms of infection rates. So the hope couldn’t have been in a miracle that people who hadn’t been socially distancing and wearing masks were suddenly going to start.

Then comes the vaccine, which hadn’t even begun to be administered in the U.S. until after the end of the fall semester.

It was clear early on that the process of getting the COVID-19 vaccine to everyone was going to take many months and that it wouldn’t occur until late summer 2021 or even the fall of 2021.

All of the information was there. And while the decision may be an unpopular one, if decision-makers were going to make it they should have done it when students were on campus and before everyone had registered for classes. It appears that they knew the decision would be unpopular and tried to bury it. This is also shown in the way they decided to announce.

By mid-December students planning on going on spring break trips likely already purchased plane tickets and rented Airbnbs.

And while they did send out a mass email, it was sent out after finals and prior to Christmas. This is a period of time when the furthest thing from a student’s minds is what is sitting in their Outlook inbox.

The decision will ultimately be hamstrung by ineffective communication. Students and their families will proceed with planned trips and possibly be exposed to the virus which they could bring back to Northwest.

It may be the right decision, but it was handled the wrong way.

YOUR VIEW:  
**How do you feel about  
spring break being  
canceled?**

ROBERT HUTTON  
Junior  
Political Science and  
Business



“I kind of understand where they are coming from just trying to get students not to be traveling as much in the middle of semester.”

ALEX SAYRE  
Sophomore  
Psychology



“I feel kind of angry about it. I was really looking forward to spring break.”

KENNY PULCE  
Senior  
Corporate  
Recreation



“It sucks a little bit but I mean, at least we get out two weeks early. I would rather get out in April than worry about a week of spring break.”

THE STROLLER:  
**Your Bearcat adores ‘The Bachelor’**

The Stroller is normally a place for satirical views of current events and trends. It’s mostly comprised of trite observations and jokes at the expense of those who care about a particular topic. This stroller is not like that. This one is serious. You need to watch “The Bachelor” and you need to do it now.

There are certain people on this planet who believe they are above watching a reality show that asks the question, is it possible to date an American classroom’s amount

of women at one time and find a wife? These are also the kind of people who believe watching boring movies makes them better than you. It doesn’t.

This reality show is the very best of what television has to offer, attractive people with mostly superficial problems. The show puts 30 women in one house all vying for the affections of one man and all of whom are shocked by the following things: that there is drama in the house and that Matt — this season’s lucky man

— doesn’t spend time with all of them equally.

This wild ride of American excess is really a jack of all trades. If you are a sports person, just treat it like a dress-filled March Madness bracket and try to pick the winners of each episode. If you are a sucker for heroes and villains, there are certainly those. Victoria, on this season, is quite possibly the most unlikeable Bachelor contestant ever -- just check Twitter.

And finally, if you are just

looking to feel good about yourself, watch this show. Because while both men and women on these shows may seem like perfect, stunning models of the human species at first glance, about five minutes in you will realize they are just as awkward and moronic as the rest of us, except they are being moronic and awkward in front of millions of people.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

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EMMA GOVREAU | NW MISSOURIAN  
Justin Mallett, associate provost of Diversity and Inclusion, helps underrepresented students transition onto a predominantly white campus and community -- one he himself has had to adjust to.

# A story of identity and race

CAYLA FRAZIER  
Outreach Editor | @TheMissourian

Justin Mallett, a man who works relentlessly to help underrepresented students transition onto a predominantly white campus and community, may not feel welcomed himself.

When speaking of the experience of underrepresented students, Mallett, the associate provost for Diversity and Inclusion at Northwest, often repeated the words “adapt,” “conform” and “adjust,” emphasizing each word with a tap on his desk. The majority population requires the adaptation, conformity and adjustment of underrepresented identities, oftentimes without the willingness to learn or understand different backgrounds themselves.

In many ways, Mallett’s decision to live in Maryville is of the same experience — a sacrifice. And he’s OK with that.

As he recounted his journey to Northwest, shared stories of his family, reflected on his responses — both as Dr. Mallett and as Justin — and as he spoke of his identity on and off campus, the heaviness of race and identity became apparent.

To some degree, Mallett is involved in all discussions on issues related to race in the community and on campus. If not planning and leading a seminar himself, he is listening, observing, taking note of all the happenings, fielding questions. Toward the end of 2020, his heavy involvement caught up to him.

“And when they talk about the whole concept of racial battle fatigue, that’s a real thing. I was fatigued. I was tired,” Mallett said. “I was wondering, ‘Is all of this worth it? Is it worth putting all this effort into these workshops and presentations and news articles and doing all these different things to educate people on issues of race? Is it really making an impact?’”

Mallett received relief at a height of fatigue while listening in on a Bearcat Diversity Bookclub meeting. The unexpected, appreciative words of a student helped clear the murkiness of doubt from his mind. Mallett was reminded of his purpose, one that was sparked in him during college: to use his access and privilege to help underrepresented students.

At the age of 9, Mallett’s view on race began to change as he boarded a school bus from Kosciusko, Mississippi, to Stevens Point, Wisconsin, for the first time. A participant in Project Self Help and Awareness, an exchange program for students with the goal of improving race relations, he lived with a prominent white family for two weeks every summer.

As a child in Kosciusko, race was one-sided, segregation the norm.

“Living in a segregated environment and a segregated community, it was just the norm. You didn’t

think twice about it,” Mallett said. Schools were integrated, enforced by Brown v. Board of Education, but activities within were still segregated — his high school didn’t integrate prom until 2009.

After highschool graduation, Mallett took the familiar trip north, this time with college on his mind. He arrived at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on a tuition waiver where he had signed to play basketball.

His Blackness stood in stark contrast on a predominantly white campus. In a discussion on the Civil War, his white classmates turned to him, offering an apology for his experience of slavery.

“I didn’t experience that,” he said, baffled. “My ancestors did but I didn’t.”

The assumptions of his classmates soon turned into a barrage of questions, white students seeking to understand the Black community. Mallett felt pressured to answer, to help his fellow classmates understand. As if a 20-something-year-old man, one just forming his own racial identity, had the capacity to explain hundreds of years of oppression or speak on the behalf of the whole Black population.

“It’s never, ‘Hey Justin, how’s it going?’” he said. “It’s always, ‘Hey, Dr. Mallett.’”  
-JUSTIN MALLET

Trying to navigate the stereotypes and bias of being an underrepresented student, Mallett had enough to handle.

“The last thing I needed to put on my plate was educating other white people as a student,” Mallett said, especially when students could seek understanding through the resources offered on campus.

After his first semester, he unknowingly lost his tuition waiver. Before Mallett even had the chance to realize the loss, Ron Strege, the director of multicultural affairs, approached him at basketball practice. Strege offered Mallett advice on how to continue in his education, as well as gave him a job in the multicultural resource center to help meet the financial gap.

“Ron Strege removed a lot of barriers, not just for me, for a lot of underrepresented students and marginalized identities,” Mallett said. “Not only did he make sure that they persisted and graduated, but gave you the blueprint on how to be successful as well.”

Strege’s act, along with the interactions Mallett experienced while working in the multicultural

resource center, were the building blocks for the work he would later go into.

Ironically enough, educating white people is now a part of his job description. Now, Mallett finds himself in another predominantly white community, serving as the face of Diversity and Inclusion in a city where 92% of residents are white.

From the South to the North with stops in the middle, his family didn’t keep him from pursuing his career. Instead, his wife accompanied him, adding a few children to the mix as the years went on. After pursuing multiple jobs, living in several states for a couple years at a time, Mallett, his wife and his growing family settled down in Maryville in 2017.

Mallett is deeply entrenched in the community, a decision he and his wife, Dana, made at the start of their marriage. With a strong social personality he was, and still is, happy with their decision. But carrying the moniker ‘doctor,’ along with his association to the University, everywhere he goes is tiresome at times.

“It’s never, ‘Hey Justin, how’s it going?’” he said. “It’s always, ‘Hey, Dr. Mallett.’”

His presence in Maryville is strictly professional. As he reflected on the friendships he has formed here, none came to mind quickly, suggesting a lack of roots.

“What I can say is that we have adjusted well to the Maryville community,” Mallett said, though it’s hard to say if he makes the personal choice to remain detached from the community, or if that choice is enforced by a community that hasn’t yet adjusted to him.

The community doesn’t provide adequate resources for Mallett and his family, or other underrepresented identities for that matter, to thrive. He has to drive to St. Joseph, Missouri, 40 miles one way, just to get his haircut. His wife drives to Kansas City, Missouri, double the trek, to get her hair done.

If Maryville desires to create an inclusive environment, Mallett said, business leaders, churches and other community organizations need to appeal to the needs of underrepresented students and families.

Mallett isn’t naive to the consequences that come along with living in a small town — inadequate resources, microaggressions, as-

sumptions and biases were to be expected. He understands the one-sidedness that is often rooted in small communities, having been raised in one himself.

“We know how to handle ourselves accordingly in how much we put ourselves out there in the community, in what we do and what we don’t do,” Mallett said.

He doesn’t mind keeping to himself and his family, he almost seems to prefer it. They enjoy resting at home together, playing games and driving to St. Joseph on the weekends.

The line between work and home can become blurred at times, no matter the intentionality of Mallett to separate the two. Try as he might, shedding his professional attire to “just be Dad” comes with its own set of challenges.

“Just because I’m at home and I say that I’m Justin, am I really Justin or am I still Dr. Mallett?” he questioned. “Am I being Dr. Mallett or am I being Dad?”

Being Dr. Mallett at home is a good thing sometimes. Where Jusin would say ‘no,’ Dr. Mallett says ‘yes,’ he said with a smile and a laugh in his voice.

While Mallett considered his decision to constantly uproot his family in pursuit of his career, he voiced the effects on his children, quickly justifying his decision.

“Have my kids had the opportunity to just really nestle me in and relax? No,” he said. “But every opportunity has been an adventure that will allow all of us to grow.”

Mallett’s children were further denied the opportunity to “nestle” him in with his decision to coach basketball. As a basketball coach for a travel team based out of Wisconsin, Mallett was pulled away from his family nearly every weekend. After a six-week period of relentless work and travel, he knew something had to give.

Leaving his wife as a single mom while he was away wouldn’t work, especially as his children grew older in his absence. The desire to be home with his wife and children led Mallett to retire this summer, after almost seven years of coaching the team.

Mallett’s privileges have allowed him and his wife to raise their children in a way that they see as fit, and he’s OK with that. The chance to grow and progress with each new experience is worthwhile.

He doesn’t consider his professional identity to be a negative. He’s comfortable with the sacrifices he has made to further his work, a work he will continue to pursue.

If Mallett is able to reach just one individual, if he is able to inspire Black men to pursue higher education, if his title gives him access into conversations and into rooms he wouldn’t normally be invited into, the sacrifice is worthwhile.



TOUGHNESS  
CONTINUED FROM A10

“We realized that we’re not immortal, pretty much, like we can be beat,” Hudgins said. “We just understood why we lost, because we were playing not to lose, not to win. I feel like the next day after the loss, we all communicate with each other, got our flow back, our mentality back and we’re going to turn everything up to 100 from now on.”

The No. 3 Bearcats (6-1) will have a chance to do that Jan. 14 against the Tigers (3-6) in Hays, Kansas.

Northwest has had success on the road, dating back to last season, with 10 consecutive wins in opposing gyms. That streak is good enough for the second-best in Division II (Valdosta State, 11)

BOUNCE BACK  
CONTINUED FROM A10

Hudgins made note of freshman Byron Alexander’s performance, in which the guard served as the sixth man to score 10 points while shooting 100%.

And Bernard, the player Hudgins was most excited to talk about, had one of the best shooting performances of his career, going 5-for-6 from deep and tallying 19 points. The guard had made seven 3-pointers prior to the matchup with Emporia.

Opening statements aren’t customary during postgame press conferences of Northwest basketball games, but that didn’t matter to him either. Before any questions were sent in his direction, Hudgins focused more on his teammates than himself, offering an impromptu opening speech.

“DB was doing crazy; let’s get that out the way,” Hudgins said. “Then we’ll go talk about Wes (Dreamer) and (Hawkins), Luke (Waters) — Byron (Alexander) was huge.”

Hudgins’ opening statement, similarly to the Bearcats’ performance moments before it, made sure to get everyone involved. It’s something that they’ve made sure to do in practice but didn’t do so well against Washburn, McCollum said Jan. 7 after the loss.

McCollum described the Bearcats’ offense against Washburn by saying the ball got sticky at times, meaning the offensive movement was rather anemic. The offense during the blowout win over Emporia, McCollum and Hudgins said, didn’t have that issue.

“We were just being selfless,” Hudgins said after the Bearcats, collectively, tallied 12 assists. “We were just passing the ball more, just wanting each other to succeed, just wanting each other to get better and make shots. Tonight, we weren’t just focusing on one action or one person, we were just playing our game, like we do every day in practice, and it was working out for us.”

The Bearcats spent the day between games soul-searching, McCollum said. The meeting was something that he felt was needed after the loss and before the team stepped foot on the court again. The goal was to not have a repeat of the Washburn performance — moreover, imitate every one prior to it.

“When you win a lot, you forget why you win, so then you just want to continue to get those results,” McCollum said. “We had to go back and really, I don’t know if you’d call it that, but soul search — it’s not that serious, but it is a little bit to these kids — and figure out what made us good.”

After the Washburn game, McCollum said his defense was hoping for stops instead of working for them, waiting for them to fall into place. The Bearcats played with more enthusiasm on defense, which eventually led to Northwest holding the Hornets to shoot 48% from the field, effectively giving Emporia a spoonful of the very medicine it’s handed to teams across the MIAA thus far.

The Hornets hung with the Bearcats for the first half, shooting 53% throughout the first 20 minutes and trailed the No. 1 team in the country by 7. In the second half, Northwest stumped Emporia’s offense, which went 1-for-10 from deep during the last 20 minutes of action.

It was, as Hudgins put it, an all-around complete performance from Northwest, one that saw the Bearcats’ offense and defense at some of its best this season. He’s aware of the fact that if the Bearcats continue to play how they did against Emporia, there might not be another team that could effectively stand in their way.

“It’s the game of basketball, so you could lose any night,” Hudgins said. “I just feel like when we play together, and we go at our pace, and we control the game, I don’t feel like a lot of teams can beat us.”

and tied for eighth-best across all levels of the NCAA (Swarthmore — Division III, 16).

The Tigers have been spotty to this point in the season, in which they started with three straight losses, followed those by winning three consecutive games and have lost three in a row prior to the matchup with Northwest.

Amid their brief win streak, Hays played an exhibition against Kansas State Dec. 8 and won, 81-68.

The Bearcats aren’t blind to the fact that Hays has struggled to win in most games this year, but they’re not ignoring the Tigers’ triumphs go unnoticed either.

“I mean they beat Kansas State, so,” Hudgins said. “You know they can play, you know they can

shoot. ... They do everything right, so we’ve gotta focus on them on Thursday and come out strong.”

“They’ll be tough,” McCollum said about the Tigers. “We need to make sure that we’re fully prepared and fully ready.

And after the Bearcats square off with Hays, they’ll head more than two hours north to prepare for a Jan. 16 date with Nebraska-Kearney (3-6).

The Lopers will host No. 16 Missouri Western Jan. 7, and have less than 48 hours to prepare for Northwest, another frontrunner for the MIAA. Regardless of that, McCollum isn’t expecting anything to come easy for his team. He isn’t expecting anything he hasn’t seen before, either.

“They’re the same team,” Mc-

Collum said. “They’re tough, well-coached, keep the ball in front of them. Offensively, they’re going to run their stuff and grind it out, it’ll be a tough place to play as well.”

McCollum is expecting both places to be challenges for the Bearcats this week, as they’ll be trying to keep that road streak alive. Those challenges, McCollum said, are ones the Bearcats welcome.

The Bearcats’ success away from Maryville isn’t due to a different approach compared to home games, McCollum said. Instead, McCollum said, it’s focusing on the consistency that he’s preached to get the program to where it currently is.

“I don’t think it’s any different than being at home,” McCollum said. “It’s just one of those things

that if you’re good, you’re able to win, regardless of where it’s at.”

Hudgins said the players are embracing that challenge as well, especially after the loss to Washburn.

The last time they lost, the Bearcats won 28 straight games. That streak ended Jan. 7 in Bearcat Arena, but one Hudgins and company are hoping to amass going forward. They’ll be ready to go this week, Hudgins said, and ready to come out swinging.

“It just puts our back against the wall,” Hudgins said about playing in another team’s gym. “I feel like everyone on this team has a chip on their shoulder. ... I just feel like, you know, our backs are against the ropes, and we like to fight, so that’s what we’re going to do.”

Bearcats handed first loss in more than year

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

With 0.1 left on the clock in Northwest men’s basketball eventual overtime loss, Trevor Hudgins stepped to the free-throw line at the south basket in Bearcat Arena.

Free throws have been a staple of the junior guard’s game, shooting 86% from the charity stripe throughout his collegiate career. But it was a position he, logistically, should’ve never been in.

The Bearcats trailed Washburn by 4 with 8 seconds left in the second half, an obstacle that seemed insurmountable for the No. 1 team in Division II basketball — until it wasn’t.

“I would’ve assumed it was over at that point,” Northwest coach Ben McCollum said. “But you don’t necessarily give up.”

Fellow junior guard Diego Bernard got a layup to go with 3.3 seconds left, giving a sliver of hope that the Bearcats could beat MIAA foe Washburn, the No. 5 team in the country.

After a foul with 2.4 seconds left on the clock, Washburn guard Tyler Geiman drained the first of his two free throws. The second missed, and Hudgins was able to get the rebound.

Hudgins didn’t have many choices in the situation, perhaps two dribbles before having to heave a shot from nearly half-court. That’s exactly what he did, and was fouled in the act of doing so.

His path to some of the toughest free throws of his career wasn’t direct; it included negation by Washburn’s bench, along with a review that left minutes to process what was at stake.

Despite the odds of the situation in the first place, with that lone millisecond on the clock, Hudgins delivered, draining all three shots to



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest men’s basketball junior guard Trevor Hudgins drives toward the rim in the Bearcats’ overtime loss to Washburn Jan. 7 at Bearcat Arena. The 84-82 loss was Northwest’s first in Bearcat Arena since 2018.

give the Bearcats five more minutes to try and remain perfect.

“I knew he was going to make all three of them,” Northwest sophomore forward Wes Dreamer said.

“So, I wasn’t worried about that. I was just focused on the next five minutes after that.”

Toward the end of those five minutes in overtime, Washburn led 84-82. Hudgins, for the second time in the same game, had the chance to be the hero.

He wasn’t in an unfamiliar situation; it was no feat the guard hadn’t tackled thus far.

He led the Bearcats to their second national championship in three years as a freshman and was named the Division II Elite Eight’s Most Outstanding Player in the 2018-19 season.

He provided his heroics in a 77-76 win over Missouri Southern Feb. 20 in front of the home crowd in Bearcat Arena, nailing a step-back buzzer-beater to help the Bearcats

claim their seventh consecutive MIAA regular-season title during the 2019-20 season.

With the final seconds of overtime dwindling down at Bearcat Arena Jan. 5, he squared up at the top of the key with Geiman, who limited Hudgins to 4-for-14 shooting to that point.

Hudgins’ shot hit the back of the rim, then the front, and eventually fell off, as did the Bearcats’ 28-game win streak, giving Northwest its first loss at home since March 10, 2018.

“It hurts,” Dreamer said after the game. “Shouldn’t have even got there in the first place, but it happens I guess. Those games happen.”

Dreamer doesn’t think that it shouldn’t have played out the way it did because of the theatrical ending. The forward, who dropped a team-high 24 points, thought the Bearcats (5-1) should’ve handily won.

“We didn’t play good at all,” Dreamer said. “We weren’t good at

all. They were just tougher than us, so it goes to them. They deserve it.”

Dreamer’s season-high performance started in the first half, when he made three of his six 3-pointers. Scoring spurts from Dreamer, along with sophomore guard Luke Waters, were needed in a half in which senior forward Ryan Hawkins, Hudgins and Bernard were collectively held to 10 points.

Hawkins’ anemic scoring performance was in part due to sitting on the bench in foul trouble. That trouble followed the reigning MIAA Defensive Player of the Year into the second half, where he only played 10 minutes during the Bearcats’ biggest matchup of the year.

Hawkins fouled out with 1:27 left in the game, leaving Northwest without one of its biggest pieces for the last 6:27 of action.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
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# Girls aim to keep hot hand

CORBIN SMITH  
Sports Reporter | @curly\_corbs

Maryville girls basketball (9-1) got out to a hot start this season, despite playing in the coldest months of the year. Facing new opponents and traveling to new destinations proved to be no problem as coach Quentin Albrecht is proud of what his team has accomplished thus far.

Following their first loss of the season Dec. 11, Albrecht suggested that the girls' egos might've affected their performance.

"I just thought we were a little too big for our britches, to tell you the truth," Albrecht said. "Some of the girls were coming off of a state championship in volleyball. We opened up our home season to Platte Valley and we lost that 53-50."

There are four Spoofhounds on the basketball roster who also played volleyball in the fall: senior guard Serena Sundell, sophomore Kennedy Kurz and freshmen Anastyn Pettlon and Rylee Vierthaler.

However, Sundell said that factors beyond the girls' realm of control is what helped Platte Valley escape the 'Hound Pound with a win.

"For me, I don't necessarily agree with that 100%," Sundell said. "We want to win. That's who we are, and I don't think we were settling for anything in the Platte Valley game. I give credit to those girls and their coach, and I feel like we could've been more mentally prepared for that game."

The Spoofhounds' 53-50 loss to Platte Valley was the highest point total scored against them so far. Since that game, Maryville has allowed an average of 28.1 points per game, while scoring an average of 54.6 points per game. The team has outscored opponents 328-169 in six games since Dec. 29.

"I'm most proud of what we've done since the Platte Valley game," Albrecht said. "The defensive effort we've put out — I'm proud of that. Also, the attitude changed. The girls are working harder in practice; I feel that they're more focused in practice and more focused going into our games."

Albrecht talked to his team after the game and told the girls this game could be either a loss or a lesson. As the girls digested their coach's message, Sundell reflected on what the loss meant to her.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School senior Serena Sundell dribbles the ball at their home game against Lafayette Fighting Irish Jan. 7. The Spoofhounds won 62-22 leaving them 7-1 in their division.

"I think we just came out slow," Sundell said. "We beat them, I think, pretty handily last year. I think they just wanted it more, and we have to realize that we're not going to just step out on the floor and get a win. We're going to have to come out and still want to win every game."

Sundell also said that the girls learned they will need to prepare better mentally for games. While fighting to better their minds, the 'Hounds fought new opponents on the court via the Doane Holiday Tournament Dec. 29-30 in Crete, Nebraska.

Maryville duked it out against some of Nebraska's best teams from the previous year. The Spoofhounds' first matchup was against Grand Island Northwest (6-7), which made it to Class B's Final Four in the Nebraska State Championships, the second largest class in the state. Grand Island's past

accomplishments failed to phase Maryville, and the Spoofhounds rolled on to a 58-32 victory.

Qualifying for the tournament's championship game, Maryville was matched against the best team in Class B the previous year, the reigning Nebraska state champions: Crete High School (8-1). Again, Maryville disregarded previous records and focused on the game at hand. After defeating Crete Dec. 31 39-28, the 'Hounds snapped photos with a different tournament trophy from ones they've won in the past.

"I think it was refreshing for our team to go up to Nebraska and see new teams," Sundell said. "The last three years I've been here, we've gone to the Bishop LeBlond tournament. I think playing that good competition up there is only going to help us at the end of the season."

Albrecht was excited to get the girls away from the LeBlond Hol-

iday Tournament this year and see new teams that they wouldn't see multiple times later in the season. However, these familiar foes don't equate to an easy schedule.

"Our schedule from here on out is very difficult," Albrecht said. "We have a state-ranked St. Pius, we have a state-ranked team in Glenwood (Iowa), LeBlond, Cameron — which is state-ranked — and Chillicothe. We added Jeff City, which is a 5A school. We added Central, which is a 5A school out of St. Joseph. We really have a tough road ahead."

Albrecht hopes these games will prepare his team for the postseason. As his star player agrees with him, Sundell also believes the team's versatility will make its opponents struggle to win a game against them.

"Every year, we're getting more and more girls involved in our of-

## UP NEXT

**MHS @ St. Pius X**  
7 p.m. Jan. 14  
Kansas City, Missouri

fense," Sundell said. "Everyone's getting assists; everyone's getting points on the board — so rather than just having a couple of girls the other team has to look out for, the other team has to look out for all of us. That's going to make us hard to stop."

Maryville's win streak increased to six after a 45-32 victory Jan. 12 against East Buchanan. With another game down, Albrecht and the Spoofhounds can push onward.

"It might be a little cliché, but we have to take one game at a time," Albrecht said. "I think if we do that, it allows us to stay focused. We just need to do that and move on down the road."

# 'Hounds prep to face unfamiliar foe

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Maryville boys basketball got its season back in full swing Jan. 4, returning from a two-week-long break for the holiday season.

The Spoofhounds' schedule was in the giving mood, having Maryville play five games in two weeks, including back-to-back games Jan. 11-12.

Maryville coach Matt Stoecklein and company are now setting their sights on an opponent from across the border in the Glenwood Rams from southwest Iowa Jan. 16, who will travel to the 'Hound Pound.

While the matchup with the Rams won't count towards the MEC standings, Stoecklein is embracing the chance to play an unknown foe.

"In the playoffs, you might play someone you don't know much about, so it's an opportunity to play someone you're not familiar with," Stoecklein said. "You could come across a team that's down by Cape Girardeau. You're not familiar with them, so you have to pretty much do a lot of your scouting report on film. It's great for a situation like that."

Last season, Glenwood lost its district final matchup against the Harlan Cyclones 84-71. The Rams are looking to avenge their early exit in 2020, and 6-foot 4-inch senior forward Ryan Blum is leading the charge.

With eleven games played for the Rams, Blum averages 30 points. He's a true threat from any area on the court. His long length makes it easier to block shots and grab rebounds, while he can shoot far beyond the 3-point arc.

The last matchup between Glenwood and Maryville is traced to a summer scrimmage a few years back, when Stoecklein remembers the resilience of the Rams.

"I remember they're just a really



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School freshman Derek Quinlin dribbles the ball past Center High School senior Chris Glenn during their game Jan. 12. The Center Yellow Jackets won 59-54 in their game against the Spoofhounds.

good team; they run their stuff really well," Stoecklein said. "We're going to have to stop Blum."

The Spoofhounds' overall record has been floating around the .500 mark throughout the young season, which is in part due to the team not being able to build chemistry with players out from Maryville's football season running long.

Stoecklein believes his team is starting to find its groove and is seeing improvements being made every week.

"What's impressive is they've continued to try to grow and learn, because we're way behind with football taking up five weeks and not having a summer," Stoecklein said. "The fact that they're trying to get better and learn what we need to get done is special."

Blum will be the focal point for the Spoofhound defense, but

Maryville has its own players that cause fits for opposing defenses. The 'Hounds lost guard Tate Oglesby due to graduation, who etched his name into Maryville history as he reached the 1,000 career points mark last season, and led the team in points per game.

However, the Spoofhounds return sophomore guard Caden Stoecklein and senior center Marc Gustafson. Caden Stoecklein is a quick point guard who finds his teammates in fast breaks opportunities, while keeping his eyes open for kick outs. He can also finish tremendously at the rim.

Gustafson, who stands 6-feet, 9-inches tall, grabs anything that bounces off the rim, along with being able to back down any opponent in the paint. With another full off-season to work on his post moves, Gustafson proves to be a real has-

le down low for opposing teams.

A player looking to step up in the place of Oglesby is senior guard Trey Houchin. Houchin has improved his outside shooting, adding more depth to his play. He's looking to do whatever it takes to secure a win for his team.

"I mentioned some things we need to do better on offense, and all it was, was to screen away from the ball, and Houchin is doing exactly what I ask," Matt Stoecklein said. "In practices, he's going hard and moving the ball much better than what we have been."

Preparing for an out-of-state opponent requires a lot of time watching film instead of practicing against sets you might see. For Maryville, Matt Stoecklein wants to focus less on what Glenwood brings into the matchup and more on what his team can excel at.

## UP NEXT

**MHS v Glenwood**  
4 p.m. Jan. 16  
'Hound Pound

"We're not familiar with (Glenwood) like we are with Center or Lafayette, who we play a lot. We tend to focus more on us during these time periods," Matt Stoecklein said. "We still watch them and scout them, but now let's take the time to really work on what we need to work on because we're not as familiar with this team."

The 2018 Class 3A Iowa State champions won't be an easy task to hold, as the Rams have scored more than 50 points in each of their contests. Stoecklein is stressing the importance of defense, an asset his team has lacked to this point in the season.

"We practice shell drill, and our kids do what they're told to do, but then we go five-on-five and they forget everything we've just done in shell drill. We need to take every drill that we do and translate it to five-on-five," Matt Stoecklein said. "If you're a crasher, crash. If you're supposed to get back, then get back. These are all drills that we break down, but when we go five-on-five, can you take everything we've done and then do it at once?"

After the Spoofhounds Jan. 7 loss to Lafayette 41-58, they've used their practice time wisely to avoid another 17-point defeat and improve for the future.

"We got killed by Lafayette; they just trounced us. It really opened our eyes, and we came into practice on Sunday night and had one of our best practices ever," Stoecklein said. "The kids responded and they did what we asked as coaches. Sometimes those losses are not fun; they're not great, but hopefully, they can refocus you and try to make you better."



# 'Cats to push past COVID-19



Northwest women's basketball freshman guard Molly Hartnett dribbles the ball away from a Central Missouri player during a home game Dec. 3, which ended with a 58-49 loss for the Bearcats.

## Women left with depleted roster due to protocols

CALVIN SILVERS Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Northwest women's basketball was given an unwanted break from MIAA competition Jan. 5, when the team's schedule was halted due to COVID-19 protocols within the Bearcat program.

A matchup with Washburn, originally scheduled for Jan. 7 in Bearcat Arena, was moved to Feb. 16, and Northwest's Jan. 9 contest against Emporia State was moved to Jan. 19. The Emporia game being re-scheduled forces the Bearcats to tackle five games in nine days, beginning Jan. 14.

Northwest coach Austin Meyer has found postponements of MIAA play for his team have shown no clear advantage.

"The goal for us is to safely play as many games as we can this season. It'll be hard to tell how it'll help us," Meyer said. "We're going to be playing multiple weeks where we have three games. That can be hard when you're playing teams that you're only playing twice."

Meyer and his staff also have to find time to scout upcoming opponents while worrying about games being played. The staff spends a lot of time together gathering film and scouting reports, but playing every two days limits the amount of information and film assembled.

The MIAA basketball season was uncertain until Oct. 1, 2020, when the MIAA CEO Council approved a 22-game, conference-only season. Coming into the season knowing nothing is guaranteed, Meyer isn't worried about his team.

"I think going into this season, we all know there's kind of an asterisk next to the year, with everyone getting their eligibility back. Every team is going to have a chance to have the exact same team next year," Meyer said. "We just make the most of it, do what you can and try to get better every day."

Practices take a toll when players are out due to COVID-19. Northwest has been limited to seven healthy players, which means the team cannot practice game-like scenarios and is not able to scrimmage five-on-five for drills.

When players are not allowed to gather for practice, the Northwest staff continues to push the girls to remain active in a controlled environment. Meyer will contact the team via text and send them in-home workouts to use with bands from the strength and conditioning coach.

To continue preparing for upcoming games, players are sent film through a website called Synergy. All athletes are able to view previous games and upcoming opponents, which Meyer believes keeps them engaged in basketball.

Bearcat senior guard Jaelyn Haggard was one of the players with COVID-19, having to stay quarantined before rejoining her teammates. For her, the struggle was re-

maining in a conditioned state.

"For me personally, most days were spent in bed resting or using the little energy I had going on walks, just so I could have some kind of exercise within those 10 days," Haggard said. "Thankfully, our strength program sent us at-home workouts to stay in the best shape possible while we are quarantined."

Northwest is ready to navigate the season through COVID-19, but the Bearcats know more postponements could limit them to finding a much needed groove.

"It really throws you out of your routine if it requires several days off in a row, especially when you'd typically be playing," Haggard said. "However, we still have found ways to condition or shoot to stay active in the meantime."

The recent postponement marks the second time the Northwest women have had to halt regular season play. To avoid more cancellations, the staff is pushing its players to stay six feet apart, wear their masks and follow other COVID-19 protocols.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

## Valuable wins on table for women in Hays, Kearney

CALVIN SILVERS Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Northwest women's basketball will pick up where it left off on its regular-season schedule, 12 days since the last matchup due to COVID-19 protocols within the program.

Third-year coach Austin Meyer is preparing his team for five games in a nine-day span, beginning Jan. 14 against Fort Hays State in Hays, Kansas.

Due to athletes contracting COVID-19 within the Bearcat program, Meyer will have to use a depleted roster, one that could consist of only seven available players.

"The goal this year was to try and play the game safely, so if we show up with seven, then we'll roll with the seven," Meyer said. "Different opportunities for different people, and that's a part of a team. When people are out, next person up."

Freshman forward Jillian Fleming is one of seven players able to make the weekend road trip and will have to step up in a big way for the Bearcats.

Fleming has been limited come game days due to a preseason foot surgery and has only three to four true practices under her wing. In a typical year, Fleming would be issued a redshirt, but the NCAA is granting athletes an extra year of el-

igibility from COVID-19, more so meaning this season won't exhaust one of the allotted years of eligibility for players.

A depleted roster isn't the only problem the 'Cats have come across in recent weeks, having faced a 12-day span of limited practices and no games to compete in.

"We're at a tough battle right now. We have seven kids available, and then you talk about having a couple of kids in our rotation out for the season due to injury," Meyer said. "We're trying to have that balance of making sure we're in shape but also making sure we're staying healthy. I know it's been tough on our kids from a mentality standpoint, but I think our kids have handled it great."

Fort Hays (6-2) is currently sitting at fourth place in the MIAA standings, three games back from first. Last season, the Tigers won the only matchup between the Bearcats 70-59.

Hays senior guard Jaden Hobbs, a transfer from Oklahoma State, will have the attention of Northwest. Hobbs is averaging 16 points per game while shooting 55% from three, along with 40 assists to her 10 turnovers.

### UP NEXT

NW @ Fort Hays  
5:30 p.m. Jan. 14  
Hays, Kansas

"They're a really tough, physical team. Women's basketball-wise in Division II, they've been one of the best programs in the country for a lot of years now," Meyer said. "They have really tough, physical kids that go along with it. It's going to be a challenge for sure, but we're excited about it."

In last season's matchup, the Bearcats pulled to a 32-25 lead at halftime, but a cold shooting performance in the third quarter and lack of defense allowed the Tigers to score 45 second-half points, while the Bearcats were limited to 27 in the final 20 minutes.

To avoid history repeating itself, Meyer wants his team to come into the matchup ready to play all four quarters and will look for the hustle of players who haven't seen the court much this season.

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'WE LIKE TO FIGHT'



Junior guard Trevor Hudgins dribbles into traffic in the first half of Northwest men's basketball's 84-82 overtime loss to Washburn in Bearcat Arena Jan. 7. Hudgins scored 11 points in the second half of the matchup, including three last-second free throws to send the game to overtime.

Men prepare for tough road trip to extend streak

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker



Toughness is something that Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum made sure to touch on after the Bearcats' two-hour practice on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

He made note of the toughness of Wes Dreamer, the sophomore forward that stepped into the starting lineup this season after Ryan Welty's departure, and how that one trait has taken his game to the next level.

He made note of the toughness regarding the Bearcats' upcoming opponents on the road in Fort Hays State and Nebraska-Kearney.

After their first loss of the season, an 84-82 defeat from Washburn Jan. 7, McCollum made sure to touch on the fact that his team wasn't tough and competitive.

They rebounded from that with a 92-71 win over Emporia State Jan. 9 in Bearcat Arena, and he's hoping a performance like that carries over into this week.

"I just want to perform and compete right away," McCollum said.

"I didn't like the way we competed that Thursday, and I don't want to see that again. I want us to compete on the road, play with energy, enthusiasm and I want everybody to do that right from the start."

28

Northwest won 28 consecutive games before the Jan. 7 loss to Washburn.

Northwest junior guard Trevor Hudgins thinks the Washburn game served as a wake-up call for the Bearcats, and they realized that at practice on Friday, which McCollum said was more of a meeting than anything.

SEE TOUGHNESS | A7

'Cats rebound from loss with blowout win

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker



Coming off of their first loss of the 2020-21 season, and first in more than a year, the No. 1 Bearcats were tasked with hosting MIAA foe Emporia State, the league's best defensive team.

Prior to the matchup, the Hornets allowed an MIAA-best 65.3 points per contest to opposing offenses, along with a shooting clip of 39.6% to go with it.

For Northwest men's basketball, neither of those things mattered.

It didn't matter that the Bearcats had less than 48 hours to prepare for the Hornets after the loss to No. 5 Washburn Jan. 7 in Bearcat Arena. It didn't matter that they were facing a stout defense. It didn't matter that Northwest was potentially 40 minutes away from back-to-back losses on its home court for the first time since 2011.

What mattered is that Northwest rebounded from its first loss with its best offensive performance of the season, beating the Hornets 92-71

UP NEXT

NW @ Fort Hays  
7:30 p.m. Jan. 14  
Hays, Kansas

Jan. 9 in Bearcat Arena.

"We tried to win," Northwest junior Trevor Hudgins said about the Bearcats' dominant win. "Thursday, we tried not to lose. It was that simple."

The guard had just hung 26 points on the Hornets' defense while shooting 8-for-10 from beyond the arc, but that didn't matter to him. The other players on the team did. More so than any other, his backcourt partner, junior Diego Bernard.

Forward Ryan Hawkins, who played 25 minutes against Washburn due to foul trouble, made his presence known. The senior notched 17 points and 8 rebounds during the performance following his worst of the season.

SEE BOUNCE BACK | A7

WALK THE TALK:  
Sports Editor answers questions

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor  
@ByJonWalker



Hello and welcome to the second edition of my mailbag column. The main premise, of course, is to focus on anything regarding Northwest Athletics. Whether it be a question about soccer's recruiting class in 2021, or the chances of men's basketball winning another national title, I'll answer it.

Who has a better chance to win POTY, Trevor Hudgins or Ryan Hawkins? Why?

Is both an acceptable answer? I'm kidding, but somewhat not.

I don't think there's any doubt these two will be in the conversation for the MIAA Player of the Year, as well as the Bevo Francis Award, which is given to the nation's best small college basketball player.

Hudgins won it last year, with Hawkins claiming Defensive Player of the Year. At this moment, I think Hudgins has the upper hand in the conversation.

Through seven games, the junior guard is averaging a team-high 20 points and 5.4 assists per game while shooting 56% from three.

Hawkins, a senior forward, is 19.3 points and 7.6 rebounds per contest while shooting 50% from the field.

They're both monumental toward the success Northwest has had during their tenures, and the conversation could really go either way. If I had to guess right now, I'd say Hudgins gets it. However, that could certainly change with 15 games left in the reg-

ular season. If I were a betting man, I'd for sure put my money on one of those two.

What more does Trevor Hudgins have to do to be the best who ever did it for Northwest?

For Trevor Hudgins to be the best basketball player to ever play in a Bearcat uniform, he simply has to continue being Trevor Hudgins.

On multiple occasions, Hudgins has said he's a distributing point guard, which is impressive considering he's had 41 20-point games in 77 contests at Northwest. That isn't me trying to point out that Hudgins contradicted himself, more so showing that he's a pass-first guard and can still score at will.

The junior out of Manhattan, Kansas, is No. 7 on the program's all-time assists list (432) and will probably be in the top five by the end of this season. He's currently chasing his predecessor, Justin Pitts, who is No. 1 on the list (575), and who most people believe to be the best Bearcat hooper ever.

He's already passed Pitts for most

in a season — twice. Hudgins is No. 1 and 2 on the list for most assists in a season, and his best was throughout his first campaign as the starter (203).

He's also No. 7 for most 3-pointers made in a career at Northwest (200). Ryan Hawkins is No. 4 on that list with 215 and I wouldn't be surprised if Hudgins catches him by the end of the season. Nobody will ever catch Zach Schneider's record of 370, but Hudgins can't have all of the records, right?

I could continue to list out Hudgins' accomplishments, but you get the point.

As I said before, for Trevor Hudgins to be the best basketball player to put on a Northwest uniform, he simply has to continue doing what he's casually done for multiple years now.

And, don't forget, Hudgins dropped 27 on Duke during the first game of his sophomore season.

Why do people not really care about Northwest track and field?

I really couldn't tell you. Maryville is a town that likes win-

ners and good teams, so there isn't much logic to not supporting track and field.

I mean, the program had 20 All-Americans during indoor season last year. If that doesn't tell you how well the team did, then I don't know what will. The Bearcats qualified 16 athletes for the NCAA Championships before COVID-19 put a halt to the world of sports, effectively ending their season.

Brandon Masters took over the program before the 2018-19 school year and had immediate results. Between luring transfers from Division I programs, recruiting new talent and bettering the athletes inherited, Masters, along with Nick Gibson, turned the track and field team into a force in the MIAA.

I wouldn't be shocked if the Bearcats, both men and women, are holding conference trophies at the end of the year. I'd expect the men's team to qualify back to nationals, too, and the women certainly have a chance.

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